

What is claimed is:

1. A computer system, comprising:
  - a shared storage;
  - a first server process, said first server process servicing a first request pertaining to a particular session, said first server process storing session information pertaining to said particular session in said shared storage; and
    - a second server process, said second server process servicing a second request pertaining to said particular session, said second server process accessing said session information from said shared storage and using said session information to service said second request.
2. The system of claim 1, wherein said second server process updates said session information to derive a set of updated session information, and wherein said second server process stores said updated session information in said shared storage.
3. The system of claim 2, wherein said updated session information replaces said session information in said shared storage.
4. The system of claim 3, further comprising:
  - a third server process, said third server process servicing a third request pertaining to said particular session, said third server process accessing said updated session information from said shared storage and using said updated session information to service said third request.

5. The system of claim 1, wherein said shared storage comprises a memory-mapped file.

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6. The system of claim 5, wherein each of said first and second server processes has a memory space associated therewith, and wherein said memory-mapped file is mapped to at least a portion of the memory space associated with said first server process and at least a portion of the memory space associated with said second server process.

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7. The system of claim 1, wherein said first server process stores said session information into said shared storage in the form of a serialized byte stream.

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8. The system of claim 7, wherein said second server process deserializes said serialized byte stream prior to using said session information to service said second request.

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9. The system of claim 1, wherein said second server process sets a busy indicator associated with said session information to indicate that said session information is currently in use, thereby preventing any other server process from using said session information while said second server process is using said session information.

10. A computer implemented method for servicing requests, comprising:  
instantiating a first server process;  
instantiating a second server process;  
receiving a first request pertaining to a particular session;  
5 servicing said first request with said first server process, said first server process  
storing session information pertaining to said particular session in a shared storage;  
receiving a second request pertaining to said particular session; and  
servicing said second request with said second server process, said second server  
process accessing said session information from said shared storage and using said  
10 session information to service said second request.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein servicing said second request comprises:  
updating said session information to derive a set of updated session information;  
and  
15 storing said updated session information into said shared storage.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein storing said updated session information  
into said shared storage comprises:  
overwriting said session information with said updated session information.  
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13. The method of claim 12, further comprising:  
instantiating a third server process;  
receiving a third request pertaining to said particular session; and

servicing said third request with said third server process, said third server process accessing said updated session information from said shared storage and using said updated session information to service said third request.

5        14.      The method of claim 10, wherein said shared storage comprises a memory-mapped file.

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15.      The method of claim 14, wherein each of said first and second server processes has a memory space associated therewith, and wherein said method further 10     comprises:

mapping at least a portion of the memory space associated with said first server process to said memory-mapped file; and

mapping at least a portion of the memory space associated with said second server process to said memory-mapped file.

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16.      The method of claim 10, wherein said first server process stores said session information into said shared storage in the form of a serialized byte stream.

20        17.      The method of claim 16, wherein said second server process deserializes said serialized byte stream prior to using said session information to service said second request.

18.      The method of claim 10, wherein servicing said second request comprises:

setting a busy indicator associated with said session information to indicate that said session information is currently in use, thereby preventing any other server process from using said session information while said second server process is using said session information.

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19. A computer readable medium having stored thereon instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to service requests, said computer readable medium comprising:

instructions for causing one or more processors to instantiate a first server  
10 process;

instructions for causing one or more processors to instantiate a second server  
process;

instructions for causing one or more processors to receive a first request  
pertaining to a particular session;

15 instructions for causing one or more processors to service said first request with  
said first server process, said first server process storing session information pertaining to  
said particular session in a shared storage;

instructions for causing one or more processors to receive a second request  
pertaining to said particular session; and

20 instructions for causing one or more processors to service said second request  
with said second server process, said second server process accessing said session  
information from said shared storage and using said session information to service said  
second request.

20. The computer readable medium of claim 19, wherein the instructions for causing one or more processors to service said second request comprises:

instructions for causing one or more processors to update said session information  
5 to derive a set of updated session information; and  
instructions for causing one or more processors to store said updated session information into said shared storage.

21. The computer readable medium of claim 20, wherein the instructions for causing one or more processors to store said updated session information into said shared storage comprises:

instructions for causing one or more processors to overwrite said session information with said updated session information.

15 22. The computer readable medium of claim 21, further comprising:

instructions for causing one or more processors to instantiate a third server process;

instructions for causing one or more processors to receive a third request pertaining to said particular session; and

20 instructions for causing one or more processors to service said third request with said third server process, said third server process accessing said updated session information from said shared storage and using said updated session information to service said third request.

23. The computer readable medium of claim 19, wherein said shared storage comprises a memory-mapped file.

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24. The computer readable medium of claim 23, wherein each of said first and second server processes has a memory space associated therewith, and wherein said computer readable medium further comprises:

instructions for causing one or more processors to map at least a portion of the memory space associated with said first server process to said memory-mapped file; and  
10 instructions for causing one or more processors to map at least a portion of the memory space associated with said second server process to said memory-mapped file.

15 25. The computer readable medium of claim 19, wherein said first server process stores said session information into said shared storage in the form of a serialized byte stream.

20 26. The computer readable medium of claim 25, wherein said second server process deserializes said serialized byte stream prior to using said session information to service said second request.

27. The computer readable medium of claim 19, wherein the instructions for causing one or more processors to service said second request comprises:

instructions for causing one or more processors to set a busy indicator associated with said session information to indicate that said session information is currently in use, thereby preventing any other server process from using said session information while said second server process is using said session information.

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